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Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

CLAIM 1 (cancelled).

CLAIM 2 (currently amended) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 11 wherein said tube member is positioned substantially perpendicular with the cover member.

CLAIM 3 (currently amended) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 11 wherein said means for breaking is connected to the ~~drum~~ cover member and comprises:

a spinner assembly having one or more blades;
a motor assembly in communication with said spinner assembly;
and

means for powering said motor assembly;

wherein when said fluorescent is fed through said tube member it is broken by the one or more blades of said spinner assembly.

CLAIM 4 (currently amended) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 11 wherein said plurality of filters include a high efficiency particulate air filter and an activated carbon filter.

CLAIM 5 (currently amended) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 11 wherein said housing is a substantially 55 gallon drum.

CLAIM 6 (currently amended) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 11 wherein said hose member is a substantially flexible vacuum hose.

CLAIM 7 (currently amended) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 11 wherein said hazardous material is a mercury vapor.

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CLAIM 8 (previously presented) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 4 wherein said plurality of filters further includes a collection bag and a substantially non-clinging filter bag; wherein a first stage of filtering is performed by said collection bag and a last stage of filtering is performed by said activated carbon filter.

CLAIM 9 (currently amended) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 11 further including an extension member removably secured to the tube member of the cover member to extend the distance the fluorescent lamp travels prior to being broken by said means for breaking.

CLAIM 10 (original) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 5 wherein said cover member is a drum lid.

CLAIM 11 (Previously Presented) A fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system, said fluorescent lamp containing a hazardous material comprising:

- a housing having a side wall and bottom surface defining an interior area;

- a cover member having a top surface, said cover member including a tube member protruding upward from said top surface for receiving a fluorescent lamp and providing access through the cover member to the interior area of the housing for the fluorescent lamp;

- means for breaking the fluorescent lamp received by said tube member into a plurality of pieces and releasing a hazardous material contained by the fluorescent lamp prior to being broken;

- a hose member connected at a first end to the cover member such that the hose member is in communication with the interior area of the housing;

- a multi stage filtering and vacuum assembly having a plurality of filter members and a vacuum motor, said vacuum motor positioned

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after a final filter of the multi stage filtering and vacuum assembly, said vacuum motor creating a negative pressure vacuum within the interior of the housing;

wherein a second end of the hose member is connected to the multi-stage filtering assembly such that the hose member is in communication with a first filter member of the multi stage filtering assembly;

wherein the negative pressure vacuum created by said vacuum motor causes at least a substantial portion of the hazardous material to be drawn through the hose member and into the multi stage filtering assembly wherein at the end of filtering by the multi-stage filtering assembly substantially hazardous material free gas is exhausted out of said multi-stage filtering assembly;

wherein at least some pieces of the plurality of pieces of the broken fluorescent lamp are retained within the interior area of said housing;

wherein said cover member further including a lamp receiving member depending upward from the top surface of the cover member, said lamp receiving member having a bottom surface, sidewalls and a top portion, wherein said top portion is connected to said bottom surface such that the movement of the top portion to an open position moves the bottom surface to a closed position for placement within said lamp receiving member of a lamp to be crushed and the movement of the top portion to a closed position moves the bottom surface to an open position to permit the placed lamp to enter the interior of the housing and for breakage by said means for breaking.

CLAIM 12 (previously presented) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 11 wherein said lamp receiving member permitting non-linear lamps to be inserted into said housing through said cover member.

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CLAIM 13 (currently amended) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 11 further comprising a pressure gauge in communication with the interior of said housing for reading a pressure level within said housing.

CLAIM 14 (currently amended) A fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system, said fluorescent lamp containing a hazardous material comprising:

a drum having a side wall and bottom surface defining an interior area;

a cover member having a top surface, said cover member including a tube member protruding upward from said top surface for receiving a linear fluorescent lamp and providing access through the cover member to the interior area of the drum housing for the linear fluorescent lamp, said cover member further including a lamp receiving member depending upward from the top surface of the cover member, said lamp receiving member having a bottom surface, sidewalls and a top portion, wherein said top portion is connected to said bottom surface such that the movement of the top portion to an open position moves the bottom surface to a closed position for placement within said lamp receiving member of a non-linear lamp to be crushed and the movement of the top portion to a closed position moves the bottom surface to an open position to permit the placed non-linear lamp to enter the interior of the housing;

means for breaking a linear fluorescent lamp received by said tube member or a non-linear lamp placed within said lamp receiving member into a plurality of pieces and releasing a previously contained mercury vapor from the linear fluorescent lamp or non-linear lamp prior to being broken;

a vacuum hose connected at a first end to the cover member such that the hose member is in communication with the interior area

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of the housing;

a multi stage filtering and vacuum assembly having a plurality of filter members and a vacuum motor, said vacuum motor positioned after a final filter of the multi stage filtering and vacuum assembly, said vacuum motor creating a negative pressure vacuum within the interior of the housing;

wherein a second end of the hose member is connected to the multi-stage filtering assembly such that the hose member is in communication with a first filter member of the multi stage filtering assembly;

wherein the negative pressure vacuum created by said vacuum motor causes at least a substantial portion of the mercury vapor to be drawn through the hose member and into the multi stage filtering assembly wherein at the end of filtering by the multi-stage filtering assembly substantially mercury vapor free gas is exhausted out of said multi-stage filtering assembly;

wherein at least some pieces of the plurality of pieces of the broken linear fluorescent lamp or non-linear lamp are retained within the interior area of said housing.

CLAIM 15 (original) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 14 wherein said means for breaking is connected to the drum cover and comprises:

a spinner assembly having one or more blades;
a motor assembly in communication with said spinner assembly;
and

means for powering said motor assembly;

wherein when said fluorescent is fed through said tube member it is broken by the one or more blades of said spinner assembly.

CLAIM 16 (previously presented) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 14 wherein said plurality of filters

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include a high efficiency particulate air filter and an activated carbon filter.

CLAIM 17 (original) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 14 wherein said drum is a substantially 55 gallon drum.

CLAIM 18 (previously presented) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 16 wherein said plurality of filters further includes a collection bag and a substantially non-clinging filter bag; wherein a first stage of filtering is performed by said collection bag and a last stage of filtering is performed by said activated carbon filter.

CLAIM 19 (original) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 14 further including an extension member removably secured to the tube member of the cover member to extend the distance the fluorescent lamp travels prior to being broken by said means for breaking.

CLAIM 20 (original) The fluorescent lamp collection and disposal system of claim 14 further comprising a pressure gauge in communication with the interior of said housing for reading a pressure level within said housing.

CLAIMS 21-24 (cancelled).